

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8, 14 and 17 without prejudice.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for classifying a first video type and a second video type in ~~a~~ one video signal having a plurality of frames, comprising the steps of:

(A) generating a plurality of first parameters defining a first transition portion between a first active portion and a first blank portion in a first of said frames;

(B) generating a plurality of second parameters defining a second transition portion between a second active portion and a second blank portion in a second of said frames, wherein said second frame follows said first frame;

(C) comparing said first parameters with said second parameters to generate a comparison value; and

(D) generating a signal indicating (i) said first video type when said comparison value is greater than a predetermined threshold and (ii) said second video type when said comparison value is less than said predetermined threshold, wherein said predetermined threshold determines if said first frame and said second frame are part of an unbroken segment.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein (i) said first video type comprises a commercial and (ii) said second video type comprises a program.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said first parameters comprise (i) a first T parameter that represents a first number of top lines in said first transition portion, (ii) a first B parameter that represents a first number of bottom lines in said first transition portion, (iii) a first L parameter that represents a first number of left columns in said first transition portion, and (iv) a first R parameter that represents a first number of right columns in said first transition portion.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said first transition portion comprises a plurality of pixels with no ~~material~~ materially non-black content.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 3, wherein said second parameters comprise (i) a second T parameter that represents a second number of top lines in said second transition portion, (ii) a second B parameter that represents a second number of bottom lines in said second transition portion, (iii) a second L parameter that represents a second number of left

columns in said second transition portion and (iv) a second R parameter that represents a second number of right columns in said second transition portion.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second transition portion comprises a plurality of pixels with no materially non-black content.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 5, wherein step (D) comprises comparing (A) a sum of (i) a first absolute value of a first difference between said first T parameter and said second T parameter plus (ii) a second absolute value of a second difference between said first B parameter and said second B parameter plus (iii) a third absolute value of a third difference between said first L parameter and said second L parameter plus (iv) a fourth absolute value of a fourth difference between said first R parameter and said second R parameter with (B) said predetermined threshold.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said video signal comprises a digital video signal.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a first detector circuit configured to generate (i) a plurality of first parameters defining a first transition portion between a first active portion and a first blank portion in a first frame of ~~a~~ one video signal having a plurality of frames and (ii) a plurality of second parameters defining a second transition portion between a second active portion and a second blank portion in a second frame of said video signal, wherein said second frame follows said first frame; ~~and~~

a second detector circuit configured to (i) generate a comparison value by comparing said first parameters with said second parameters and (ii) generate a signal indicating (a) a first video type when said comparison value is greater than a predetermined threshold and (b) a second video type when said comparison value is less than said predetermined threshold; ~~and~~

a controller (i) connected between said first detector circuit and said second detector circuit and (ii) configured to control said first detector circuit and said second detector circuit.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said first detector circuit comprises a 4-set detector configured to detect at least four parameters from each of said frames.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said second detector circuit comprises a segment detector configured to receive said second parameters following receipt of said first parameters.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said first detector circuit generates said first parameters and said second parameters in response to (i) a threshold signal and (ii) one or more samples from said frames.

14. (CANCELED)

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a change in said signal indicates a transition between a first program type and a second program type.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for distinguishing between a commercial and a program in ~~a~~ one digital video signal having a plurality of frames, comprising the steps of:

(A) determining both a first size and a first position
5 of a first truly active region in a first of said frames;

(B) determining both a second size and a second position of a second truly active region in a second of said frames, wherein said second frame follows said first frame; and

(C) generating a signal to indicate (i) a lack of a
10 scene transition between said commercial and said program when both
said first size and said first position of said first truly active
region are substantially similar to both said second size and said
second position of said second truly active region and (ii) a
presence of said scene transition between said commercial and said
15 program when at least one of said first size and said first
position of said first truly active region is not substantially
similar to a corresponding at least one of said second size and
said second position of said second truly active region.

17. (CANCELED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 16
17, further comprising the steps of:

generating a first segment signature associated with said
first frame where said scene transition represents a change from
5 said program to said commercial; and

generating a second segment signature associated with
said second frame.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim
18, wherein said method further comprises implementing a commercial
advance by:

skipping said frames having said second segment
signature; and

returning from said commercial advance when said frames
have said first segment signature.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for segmenting ~~a~~ one
video signal into a plurality of program segments and a plurality
of commercial segments, comprising the steps of:

(A) generating a plurality of first parameters defining
a first signature of a first segment of said program segments
independent of a content of said first segment;

(B) detecting an end of said first program segment;

(C) generating a plurality of second parameters defining
a second signature of a second segment of said video signal;

(D) comparing said second parameters to said first
parameters; and

(E) classifying said second segment as one of said
program segments where said first parameters and said second
parameters are substantially similar.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 20,
wherein said second parameters indicate a start of active video
content.